

3rd January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you have all managed to have a wonderful Christmas and New Year break in what continues to be a very unusual time for us all. As you are aware, we have been asked to ensure that students undertake one on-site lateral flow test (LFT), on their return this January. This will help boost testing participation and possibly reduce transmission after a period of potential social mixing during the holidays. Students are also encouraged to continue testing twice weekly at home, and to [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#).

We look forward to welcoming back our students this week but as a reminder I have included the testing and return to school schedule at the end of this letter. In short, students will experience a staggered start to the term with all students returning a day after they have been tested in school.

Uncertainty regarding COVID-19 remains. The government has warned that absence rates amongst staff and students could be higher than ever this coming term. Last term, teachers and support staff worked incredibly hard to cover absence and we were able to deliver lessons and activities as planned. We also experienced a wonderful end to the school year with a full programme of events and Christmas shows that brought back some normality and fun to the school experience. Our current plan is for all students to remain in school for every lesson. However, a move to on-line learning at some point in the future remains a real possibility if government predictions regarding the spread of the Omicron variant transpire. Locally and nationally some schools have already moved to this option last term, but we will endeavour to do everything to remain open to all students and to keep you fully informed along the way.

The latest guidance:

On Wednesday 22nd December, the self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result was reduced to **7 days in most circumstances**, unless you cannot test for any reason. Students may now take LFD tests on **day 6 and day 7** of their self-isolation period. Those who receive **two negative test results** are **no longer required** to complete **10 full days of self-isolation**. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and if there is no evidence of a high temperature, students may end the period of self-isolation and return to school on day 8.

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19:

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, **should take an LFD test every day for seven days** and continue to attend their educational setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Consent reminder (if not already given):

Whilst we are not able to insist that all students are tested, we do encourage everyone to provide consent and help us keep everyone in our school and wider community safe. We would kindly request that consent is provided 24 hours before the students are due to come in and take their test. Students aged 16 and over, can give verbal consent at school. Parents and carers that have already provided consent for any previous round of testing do not need to complete the form again. The link to provide consent is:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Te9Lj092vEvsY1qvjH1KMz5eZBrncdWQavFHEZ8KL0M/edit>

Updated guidance on wearing face masks in classrooms:

As of Sunday January 2nd, it is now recommended that face coverings are worn in all classrooms, unless students are in possession of a green exemption band. This advice is short term only, to support students and teachers as they return to school this term and it builds on the existing guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults and students in Years 7-11, in communal areas of all settings. We are updating our guidance to reflect this change in government advice.

The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until **Wednesday 26th January**, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed. Please would you therefore ensure that your child leaves home with a mask before attending the school, unless exempt.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Hoffmann', written in a cursive style.

Michael Hoffmann
Principal

Covid Testing and Return to School Schedule 4th-7th January 2022

Year 11 & 6 th Form		Year 11 & 6 th Form		Year 11 & 6 th Form		Year 11 & 6 th Form	
Hawking		Shelley		Turing		Attenborough	
Test Tuesday 4th Jan		Test Tuesday 4th Jan		Test Tuesday 4th Jan		Test Tuesday 4th Jan	
Return to school Wed 5 th Jan		Return to school Wed 5 th Jan		Return to school Wed 5 th Jan		Return to school Wed 5 th Jan	
H11-Z_G	09:00	S11-SRB	10:30	T11-RGP	11:30	A11-SRS	13:30
H11-CMS	09:00	S11-HJC	10:30	T11-HMP	11:30	A11-SBR	13:30
6-LEG	09:30	S11-TJJ	10:30	T11-LDH	11:30	6-GDR	13:45
6-PAN	09:30	6-TMS	11:00	6-AJC	12:00	6-HPD	13:45
6-ACW	09:45	6-HAL	11:00	6-AJP	12:00	6-SGD	13:45
6-MHL	09:45	6-JSB	11:00	6-S_R	12:15		
				6-JER	12:15		

Years 7 & 8		Years 7 & 8		Years 7 & 8		Years 7 & 8	
Hawking		Shelley		Turing		Attenborough	
Test Wednesday 5 th Jan		Test Wednesday 5 th		Test Wednesday 5 th		Test Wednesday 5 th	
Return to school Thurs 6 th Jan		Return to school Thurs 6 th Jan		Return to school Thurs 6 th Jan		Return to school Thurs 6 th Jan	
H7-EJJ	09:00	S7-SDR	10:30	T7-AT	12:00	A7-RJC	13:30
H7-AJM	09:00	S7-MTW	10:30	T7-ACA	12:00	A7-ANM	13:30
H7-EQF	09:00	S8-CMC	10:45	T8-LJB	12:30	A8-ELA	13:45
H8-CMW	09:30	S8-TSE	10:45	T8-RKB	12:30	A8JMS	13:45
H8-SCW	09:30						
H8-MDB	09:30						

Years 9&10		Years 9&10		Years 9&10		Years 9&10	
Hawking		Shelley		Turing		Attenborough	
Test Thursday 6 th January		Test Thursday 6 th January		Test Thursday 6 th January		Test Thursday 6 th January	
Return to school Friday 7 th Jan		Return to school Friday 7 th Jan		Return to school Friday 7 th Jan		Return to school Friday 7 th Jan	
H9-RRE	09:00	S9-LCA	10:30	T9-AKB	12:00	A9-HSH	13:30
H9-MCW	09:00	S9-NAR	10:30	T9-JW	12:00	A9-ELC	13:30
H10-CFB	09:30	S9-JJH	10:45	T10-MPW	12:30	A10-STE	13:45
H10-NPT	09:30	S10-JB	10:45	T10-N_G	12:30	A10-JRB	13:45
		S10-ESS	10:45			A10-TAR	13:45